



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Sanjay Bhardwaj Art Unit: 2661  
Serial No.: 09/771,172 Examiner: Unknown  
Filed: January 26, 2001 Docket: 109612.00022  
For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR BYTE ROTATION**

#61A  
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Technology Center 2600

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please enter and consider this amendment prior to initial examination in this application.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel Claims 1-22 and add the following claims:

23. A data alignment apparatus, comprising:  
an input for receiving an input temporal series of parallel-formatted input groups of digital data units;

a data aligner coupled to said input and responsive to said input series for producing an output temporal series of parallel-formatted output groups of said digital data units;

an output coupled to said data aligner for outputting said output series;

said data aligner including a buffer coupled to said input for storing data units of a first said input group while a second said input group is received at said input, and a combiner coupled to said buffer and said input for producing one of said output groups

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Cost.